

Renewal & Recreation Portfolio - Variations as at 24 February 2011

1. Adult Education College Cr £3k

There is a reported underspend of £12k against employee related budgets, mainly made up of £4k on training, £2k on staff advertising and £6k on general salary costs.

There is a reported overspend of £8k on electricity costs.

There are minor underspends on car allowances of £2k and student travel of £3k.

There is a reported underspend of £43k against supplies and services budgets, mainly made up of £9k on office equipment, £3k on refreshments, £27k on project expenses and £4k on postage.

There is a reported shortfall of income of £49k, made up of £10k on tuition fees, £17k on nursery fees, £15k on miscellaneous income and £7k on refreshment and other sales.

CARRY FORWARD REQUEST

1. This relates to the grant from the Skills Funding Agency that runs on an academic year and therefore both the funding and expenditure will run until July 2011. Request to carry forward Dr £200k and Cr £200k.

2. Building Control Cr £87k

A report was submitted to the Executive to drawdown £138k from the central contingency following changes to legislation.

A shortfall of income of £97k is being offset by savings of £192k from management action to reduce costs, including holding 4.73fte vacant.

Part of the provision set aside for the costs of the dangerous structures relating to the plane crash site are no longer required as the insurance company has now settled the revised invoice. The balance of £74k has been written back to the building control code and is being used to offset the shortfall of income within planning.

It is likely that there will be a surplus of up to £85k that will be carried forward to 2011/12 in an earmarked reserve to be used to offset future building regulation charges in accordance with the formal guidance from CIPFA.

3. Land Charges £0k

There is currently an income deficit of £14k which is being offset by an underspend on staffing and running expenses.

It should be noted that it is likely there will be a deficit carried forward to 2011/12 of between £66k and £76k due to the Government withdrawing the statutory fee for personal searches in August 2010. This deficit will have to be recovered by increasing the full search fees during 2011/12.

4. Planning Dr £60k

Income from planning is £202k below budget for the first ten months of the year and £119k below the actual received for April 2009 to January 2010. At this stage, it is projected that the year-end shortfall of income will be £265k.

Based on income from major applications to date, £124k less has been received compared to the actual from April 2009 to January 2010. Within non-major applications to date, £5k more has been received compared to the actual received for the same period in 2009-10.

Management action taken includes holding 3.08 fte posts vacant and reducing spend on running expenses totalling Cr £245k.

Legal costs relating to planning appeals that have been lost total £130k for 2010/11. £90k will be drawn down from the central contingency sum which was specifically set aside for these costs. This leaves a balance of £40k which is being offset by the provision that has been written back to revenue within building control.

Summary of Planning variations at 31st January 2011	Variation £'000
Effect of holding 3.04 FTE's vacant within Planning	(144)
Underspend within transport, supplies & services resulting from management action within Planning	(101)
Shortfall of income from planning fees	265
Balance of legal costs relating to lost appeals	40
Total variation	60

5. Renewal Cr £172k

Within the planning renewal section, there is a projected underspend within supplies and services of £19k.

CARRY FORWARD REQUESTS

2. There is an underspend of £53k within the Portfolio Holder Initiative fund, for which a carry forward request will be submitted to the Executive. It is intended to spend this amount on Town Centre events during 2011/12 the details of which were agreed by both the Portfolio Holder and the PDS Committee in February.
3. An underspend of £100k is also projected for Local Development Framework expenditure for which a carry forward request will be submitted to the Executive to enable the consultation and evidence preparation to be undertaken during 2011/12 and 2012/13 within the deadline submitted by the Government in December 2010.

The LDF Advisory Panel 17th January 2011 agreed a revised indicative programme for the continuing preparation of the Core Strategy. This reflects the LDF timescale included in the Annual Monitoring Report submitted to Government in December 2010.

This timescale shows the first and second rounds of public consultation taking place in 2011/12 and the final round in 2012/13. In addition the preparation of the evidence base continues throughout the process, the preparation of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan to show how the Core Strategy will be implemented and other elements of the LDF will develop from the emerging Core Strategy, in particular any Site Allocations DPD, design and development control documents.

However, there are several areas of work which require funding to enable a robust Core Strategy and LDF to be prepared during the revised timescales that will mean the expenditure will not now take place until 2011/12.

6. Culture Dr £30k

There is currently an overspend of £22k on the grant payment to Bromley Mytime. This is as a result of the RPIX applied to the grant being higher than the amount added in to the LBB budget as part of the estimate process.

There is also an overspend of £8k on the Churchill Theatre Management Fee due to actual inflation being higher than the budgeted inflation.

7. Libraries £0k

In total £340k savings have been achieved compared to the target figure of £300k that was built into the 2010/11 budget. This has enabled the staff turnover budget provision to be reduced from £250k to £210k.

Currently there are no vacant posts within the service to enable the staff turnover of £210k to be met. Savings of £79k have been found from running expenses along with not backfilling a post where the member of staff has been seconded to another department. The net effect is a projected overspend of £131k on staffing. Any future posts that become vacant during the year will be frozen.

Due to the economic climate there is a reported shortfall of income of £50k from hire charges for DVD/CDs, photocopying charges and other income streams.

Credit notes totalling £141k for a devaluation of business rates have recently been received for 11 Libraries going back to 2005/06 which can be used to offset most of the overspend on staffing freeing up £141k of the £181k frozen book fund.

8. Non-controllable variations Cr £7k

Any variations within the non-controllable section are reported in detail to the Resources PDS as these budgets fall under the control of Property Department.

For information here, the variations relate to shortfalls within property rental income budgets across the division. Property department are accountable for these variations as well as any movement within repairs and maintenance budgets.